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## Netanyahu: Gov't will discuss Hebron with PA soon

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday told members of the Likud's political bureau that official talks with the Palestinian Authority will resume soon and will cover a variety of issues, including Hebron.

Netanyahu vehemently denied that he had promised the US to cease the construction of bypass roads for Israeli settlements in the territories.

The bureau was called into session to discuss the issue of IDF redeployment in Hebron. However, Netanyahu put off the deliberation, but not before a tiff with bureau chairman MK Uzi Landau, who also heads the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Netanyahu alluded to the renewed attacks on his government by a host of Arab leaders by mentioning the "attempt to impose a political siege" on the new government when it first took office in June.

Netanyahu recalled that "when we took office we were faced with a concerted attempt by some circles in the Arab world to impose a diplomatic siege upon the new government and upon the State of Israel. This went so far that the first action we had to take was to break through this siege and to do it as quickly as possible.

"In fact, the aim was to expand this siege in the direction of Europe and the US. There was an urgent need to approach the governments in question, as well as Arab leaders, to put an end to this."

Netanyahu told the bureau that international agreements have to be adhered to, he called on the Syrians to continue the talks with Israel, and he belittled Labor leader Shimon Peres for "finding so much time to playact as prime minister."

On Hebron itself, Netanyahu had nothing new to say. He said he cannot as yet bring any plan before the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Peres, Arafat meet at Erez

JON IMMANUEL

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday for the first time since losing the premiership.

In a press conference after the no-hour meeting at the Palestinian side of Gaza's Erez checkpoint, Peres said, "I am no longer in the government. Neither did I come here to attack the government. But I have two great obligations. We made an agreement with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian rais (chairman), and I feel deeply obliged to every promise we made on behalf of the government and on behalf of the Israeli people."

Arafat greeted Peres "not just as partner but as a friend."

Palestinian sources at the meeting said that Peres listened and asked questions about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. He said he would do what he could to influence the government, but politics was kept on a low flame.

The most controversial thing about the meeting was its location. It was held at Erez after an initial ban by the government on a helicopter flight by Arafat from Gaza to Ramallah, where the two men were originally scheduled to meet.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held up the authorization of the flight plan for a couple of hours before giving his okay.

According to an official in the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu complained that the

(Continued on Page 2)

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Haifa	6:50	7:50
Beersheba	6:53	7:50
Eilat	6:51	7:51



Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai visits a Tel Aviv apartment housing foreign workers yesterday. (Doron Sussman/Israel Sun)

## Cabinet to examine plan to deport up to 100,000 foreign workers

DAVID HARRIS

A PLAN to expel 1,000 illegal foreign workers a month and to eventually send up to 100,000 back to their home countries, is scheduled to be discussed at today's cabinet meeting.

The proposal, by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, calls for the establishment of an authority and the allocation of several million shekels to deal with the issue. It was reported yesterday that he will suggest establishing transit camps to house those awaiting deportation.

It is estimated at least half of the more than 200,000 foreign workers here are employed illegally, and Yishai intends to target them first.

"No one is defining [all] for-

ign workers as criminals," said Yishai, who called for the declaration of a national state of emergency. "But every worker whose work permit has expired is an illegal worker... and should be removed from the country."

Yishai indicated that a reduction in the number of foreign workers would lead to a further easing of the six-month-long closure.

During a visit to areas of south Tel Aviv populated by foreign workers, Yishai was told that many of the workers had entered the country on tourist visas, and are now requesting their families be allowed to join them.

Yishai saw apartments housing

up to 18 people per room, and expressed concern at the abysmal standard of living. Senior police officers who accompanied him, updated him on the increasing crime rate among the workers, including drunk and disorderly and violent behavior. The proposal to set up transit camps has been welcomed by the police.

Following his tour, which

included a visit to a kindergarten for children of foreign workers, Yishai wrote to Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, warning him of the possible spread of disease because of the squalid living conditions.

"There is no doubt, this requires urgent attention," wrote Yishai. "Every resident of Tel Aviv who comes into contact with foreign workers is likely to face health risks."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Mubarak threatens cancellation of summit

PM sending Levy to Cairo

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

THE regional economic summit planned for Cairo in November may not take place unless Israel upholds its commitments to the Palestinians, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told a gathering of academics in Alexandria yesterday.

"I've told the Israelis that no progress in the peace process will hit the Middle East economic summit, because not many countries will attend," Mubarak said. He fell short, however, of saying that Egypt would cancel the event.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned Mubarak last night and pledged that there would be progress on the Palestinian track. Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold met yesterday with PA President Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, in an attempt to make some progress on the outstanding issues.

Netanyahu's office issued a statement after the phone call, insisting that Netanyahu understood from Mubarak that the economic conference would take place.

Netanyahu also announced that he would soon dispatch Foreign Minister David Levy to Egypt in an attempt to smooth over relations.

Mubarak told the academics that Israel needed to move fast. "We are worried that the length of time could affect the peace process. If there's no clear progress in the peace process and in implementing

the agreements and entering negotiations, I believe that many countries will not come.

Though more than two months remain until the party is scheduled to convene, Mubarak's comments—which echoed earlier remarks made by Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny—could affect decisions by companies on whether to attend.

But officials in Jerusalem said that Cairo will be forced to back down from these threats under pressure from Washington. The officials noted that President Bill Clinton, who is facing an election campaign, will want to point to the planned summit as one of his administration's accomplishments.

They also pointed out that Washington had pressed both Israel and Jordan to agree during last year's summit in Amman that this year's summit would be held in Cairo. Both Israel and Jordan had wanted the summit to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The officials added that Mubarak knew that a pullback from Hebron is likely to take place before November, but by making a threat now, the pullback could be described as an Israeli response to Cairo's hard line.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats are urging the government to reach an agreement with the Palestinians on a pullback from Hebron by September 5, the date scheduled for a donors' meeting in Washington to discuss (Continued on Page 2)

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The Jerusalem Post

# Abbas: Iran plotting overthrow of PA

JERO (AP) - Iran is plotting to overthrow the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, has suggested in an interview with the Arabic daily *al-Awsat*. He said that the plotters plan to assassinate PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying they intend to use symbols of the Palestinian Authority. The PA has information that radical groups are planning military operations and assassinations aimed at the Palestinian Authority and its symbols with a view to overthrowing it, he said. Abbas, an architect of the 1993 Oslo Accords, declined to specify the source of the information or the groups involved. But he said meetings recently held in Iran between Iranian officials, Palestinian militant Islamic groups to plot the plot.

# Israeli drowns off British coast

AN Israeli yachtsman died in a London hospital yesterday after being plucked from the sea by a rescue helicopter shortly after a 10-hour search. The 33-year-old boy, who was believed to be a relative in the command, was found by the helicopter after a search that lasted for another two hours. The boy was believed to be a relative in the command. The search was led by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. The boy was found about 10 miles off the British coast of Devon, England. The search was believed to be the most extensive in the command's history. The boy was found by the helicopter after a search that lasted for another two hours. The boy was believed to be a relative in the command. The search was led by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. The boy was found about 10 miles off the British coast of Devon, England. The search was believed to be the most extensive in the command's history.

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# Arafat establishes new university security force

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is establishing a new security force to contain dissent at Palestinian universities, at a time of growing criticism of him for alleged human rights abuses by the multiple Palestinian security forces operating in the territories. Arafat ordered the establishment of the *Jihaz Am el-Jamat*, or University Security Organ, earlier this week, Palestinian sources said. The security force is to be given the job of preventing student uprisings, and putting them down when they occur. They will be responsible for everything from monitoring the political atmosphere on campus to making arrests of students who incite against the PA, said one source. During the intifada, the Palestinian universities were a center of protest against Israeli rule. Under the PA, the universities have again become a fertile ground of dissent against the Palestinian authorities. Arafat originally made the decision to set up a special university security force after fierce clashes occurred in the spring at An-Najah University in Nablus, between students protesting the imprisonment of fellow students by the PA, and Palestinian Police. The University Security Organ is to be headed by Abu Samir Kudwa. The force itself is only now beginning to be set up, but is slated to begin operations soon, according to the sources. "I think the establishment of the University Security Organ is just another indication that the human rights situation is only getting worse," said Khader Shkirat, director

BILL HUTMAN of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment. "We already have so many different security forces in operation, why do we need more?" said Shkirat, whose organization has been one of the leading Palestinian groups criticizing the alleged human rights abuses by the existing Palestinian security forces. Shkirat called on Arafat to reverse his decision, and instead concentrate on cleaning up the operations of the existing Palestinian security forces. At least 10 different PA-affiliated

security groups operate in the Palestinian and administered territories, while many of these groups are extremely fractured, with the commander of a district working independently of commanders elsewhere. The security groups in existence already include Force 17, National Security Police, Civil Police, Preventive Security, Intelligence, Presidential Police, Special Security Police, Criminal Police, Border Police, and Coast Guard, according to Palestinian sources. "The time has come to reform the entire police and security apparatus in the West Bank and Gaza," Shkirat said.

The driver told police that another car, which was passing her, forced her to swerve to the right to avoid an accident, and she then hit Raneim. The Central Bureau for Statistics, meanwhile, reported yesterday that police recorded 1,930 traffic accidents involving injuries last month. There were 31 fatal accidents, in which 37 people were killed, and 206 involving serious injuries. Altogether, 3,293 people were injured, 279 of them seriously. The bureau said this represented an 11 percent decrease in the number of accidents compared to June, and a 16 percent drop in the number of injured. In the first seven months of the year, there have been 14,761 accidents, in which 281 people have been killed and 26,792 injured.

always be filled with violence. Whoever thinks he can halt the negotiations and the situation will remain the same, must understand the darkest days. How can anyone even think of preventing the leader of the opposition from meeting Arafat? After all, we have Orwell's voice. You can't be cynical than that. We have our own policy and we'll strive to apply it by every acceptable norm," he said.

# Bligh likely to be next ambassador to Egypt

DR. Alexander Bligh, a former aide to former premier Yitzhak Shamir, is likely to be named the next ambassador to Egypt. Bligh, who has a doctorate in Middle East studies and formerly served in military intelligence, has already held discussions about the post with Acting Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur. A decision on the new envoy must be made quickly since Ambassador David Sultan is expected to be named ambassador to Canada in the next few weeks. Sultan has been eager to leave Cairo ever since there was a false story in the Egyptian opposition press charging he was tied to the killing of Egyptians in 1956.

DAVID MAKOVSKY Several diplomatic posts remain vacant, especially since the new government recalled political appointees from several top posts. Among the positions left open are ambassadors to the UN, Russia, Turkey, and South Africa. Two leading candidates for the UN post are Oded Eiran, a professional diplomat who has held a wide array of senior posts, and Dr. Yossi Olmert, a former think-tank analyst who ran on the Likud list for Knesset. The consul-general's position in New York, which was held by Collette Avital, a foreign service

officer whom the Likud charges holds strong pro-Labor leanings, is also vacant. It seems that both Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are considering different candidates for that post. Levy is said to favor former Likud MK and former consul-general in Toronto Dror Zeigerman. Netanyahu is said to be seriously considering Yossi Ben-Aharon, who served as Shamir's director-general. The one major diplomatic appointment made by the Likud since coming to power was the appointment of Eliahu Ben-Elissar as ambassador to the US, replacing Itamar Rabinovich.

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Russians, Chechen rebels sign peace deal

DMITRY KUZNETS NOVYE ATAGI, Russia

RUSSIAN security chief Alexander Lebed signed a deal with separatists in Chechnya yesterday, promising to withdraw government forces to end three weeks of bloodshed in Grozny, the Chechen capital. Troops will be withdrawn from Grozny because constitutional order cannot be introduced using air and artillery strikes. They will be withdrawn from the whole of Chechnya, a triumphant Lebed told reporters in this village about 20 kilometers south of Grozny. Moscow's forces have been attacking Grozny to try to oust rebels who seized it in a raid on August 6 that humiliated the Russian military. The separatists said the attack was in retaliation for Russian bombardments of Chechen villages. The Russian attacks followed a deal with the rebels for disarmament. In return for step-by-step troop withdrawals from the mainly Moslem region to be completed by September 1. Troops have come and gone in 20 months of the Chechen conflict, and it was too soon to say whether the new deal would bring respite for civilians who have been fleeing Grozny in tens of thousands since the raid began. It was also unclear how much power Lebed actually holds. Though President Boris Yeltsin appointed him his special envoy to Chechnya, Security Council secretary and security adviser, he criticized him in an interview earlier on Wednesday. 'I am not completely satisfied with Lebed's performance in Chechnya,' Yeltsin told RIA news agency in an interview shown in a television feed. Lebed predicted further criticism from his many opponents in Moscow - democrats and hardliners alike. But he seemed not to care, saying: 'Anyone who is unhappy is welcome to complain.'



Two little girls hold teddy bears as they look at the funeral cortege arriving at the Saint Martin basilica in Liege yesterday. (Reuters)

Two victims of pedophile buried

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) - Two eight-year-old victims of a pedophile were buried in an emotional funeral yesterday as investigators widened the search for young girls who disappeared in recent years. The nationally telecast funeral of Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune capped a week of shock since Marc Dutroux, a convicted child rapist, led police to the bodies of the two girls buried in a garden. The pair probably died of starvation in the cellar of a house he owned in southern Belgium. Dutroux, 38, has admitted kidnapping at least two other girls who remain missing. Yesterday, relatives, friends and hundreds of sympathizers packed Saint Martin's Cathedral to bid farewell to Melissa and Julie, whose bodies lay in two white coffins.

Outside the church, thousands more watched the ceremony on a large TV screen, and the emotional funeral was broadcast throughout Belgium. Offices and shops in this eastern town were closed in the morning to show support for the dead girls' families. The funeral continued an outpouring of grief and horror that began a week ago when two sexually abused girls were found in the cellar of Dutroux's house in Marcinelle. Dutroux was released from prison in 1992 after serving only part of a 13-year sentence for raping five under-age girls. His case has revealed shortcomings in Belgium's justice system. He won early release from prison despite recommendations against it from case workers. After his release, officials failed to keep tabs on Dutroux, who managed to get a monthly

social allowance of 38,000 (NIS 3,600) on the strength of a declaration that prison left him psychologically unable to work. His case has brought media allegations police ignored tipoffs that Dutroux had resumed kidnapping children after he left prison and started secret cellars to hold young girls before selling them abroad. The case of Melissa and Julie is particularly heart-wrenching because police searched Dutroux's house twice last year but failed to find the two, who likely were hidden in the cellar. Dutroux told police the girls probably starved to death because a friend, Bernard Weinstein, failed to feed them while he was in jail on an unrelated theft charge. Dutroux said he killed Weinstein, whose body police found alongside the girls.

Hussein: Riots harmed Jordan's image

AMMAN (Reuters) - King Hussein told Jordan's parliament yesterday that weekend riots against higher bread prices had harmed Jordan's image as a stable country and allowed its enemies to gloat. 'The recent events allowed our enemies to gloat and allowed them to get at what they wanted,' he told the 80-seat lower house summoned to the palace as part of efforts to contain the crisis after the worst unrest since 1989. 'What happened had a negative impact on years of what we tried to build to tell the world that Jordan is an oasis of stability,' he added. 'But the image, as you saw on worldwide media, was pictures of an unstable country...we provided them with material to talk about us as they do not want good for this country.' The king antagonized many Jordanians on Saturday when he suspended the summer session of parliament, where a majority of deputies opposed the price rise. He vowed an "iron fist" policy against unrest, which erupted in the southern city of Karak after Friday prayers and spread to nearby towns. The king's action increased anger at Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti, who ignored parliament's views and pushed ahead with his bread decision. The king said he backed popular demands to reevaluate the country's democratic, political and economic experience 'to define the problems and challenges that force us to take bitter and painful decisions'. He also praised Kabariti, 46, and his team of generally younger politicians whom he entrusted when they took over in February with initiating administrative reforms and ending apathy common in the bloated civil service.

ANC apologizes for human rights abuses in struggle against apartheid

INSISTING that its cause was just, President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress admitted yesterday that some of the means used in its struggle against apartheid were inexcusable. The public apology before a commission investigating the human rights abuses that characterized the apartheid era came a day after the National Party made a similar confession. While it was never policy to attack civilians or to abuse suspected spies, the ANC admitted in a 300-page submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that "excesses did occur." "The ANC has acknowledged that in a number of instances breaches in policy did occur, and deeply regrets civilian casualties," the party said in the document presented by a 23-member delegation, headed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

German court sentences neo-Nazi Lauck to four years

ANDREW GRAY HAMBURG

A HAMBURG court jailed US neo-Nazi leader Gary Lauck for four years yesterday for pumping banned propaganda material into Germany from his US-based publishing house. A defiant Lauck, from Lincoln, Nebraska, yelled a tirade of abuse at the court after his conviction for inciting racial hatred. "The struggle will go on," the 43-year-old shouted in German before being escorted out by security guards. Lauck's lawyer vowed he would appeal against the court's decision, arguing that his client should have been set free because he had not committed any offense under German law. The conviction was a major coup for prosecutors, who had been trying for years to scupper Lauck's worldwide network - the main source of antisemitic propaganda material flowing into Germany since the 1970s. "Lauck possessed a well-oiled propaganda machine, honed during more than 20 years," presiding judge Guenter Bertram told the court. "He set up a propaganda canon and fired it at Germany." Eager to put Lauck behind bars

quickly and avoid a long and complex trial, prosecutor Bernd Mauruschat limited his charges to offenses since 1994. He had demanded a five-year jail term but said he was satisfied with the court's sentence. Publishing and distributing neo-Nazi material is illegal in Germany but Lauck's defense team had argued that US freedom of speech laws meant he was free to produce his swastika-covered books, magazines, videos and flags in the United States. Lauck, dressed in a sober blue suit and sporting his trademark Hitleresque black moustache, showed no sign of emotion as Bertram spent more than an hour reading out the verdict and explaining the court's decision. But as he was about to be led away, Lauck turned to reporters and blurted out a virtually incomprehensible quick-fire diatribe against the court. "Neither the National Socialists (Nazis) nor the communists dared to kidnap an American citizen," he shouted, in an oblique reference to his extradition to Germany.

"That's the truth." His attorney, Hans-Otto Sieg, told reporters outside the courtroom that the judges had failed to address whether a German court could convict someone for producing propaganda on foreign soil and sending it to Germany. "You can't just say he set up a propaganda canon and fired it at Germany," Sieg said. "Journalists may be able to write that but it's not a legal point. I still don't see which German law he is supposed to have broken." Bertram said Lauck was obsessed by Nazism and devoted his life to his National Socialist German Workers' Party Foreign Organization (NSDAP-AO), which derives its name from the full German title of Hitler's Nazi party. The court also rejected Sieg's argument that Lauck's extradition from Denmark, where he was arrested in March last year at the request of German authorities, was illegal. Lauck will probably be free in around two and a half years as the court ruled that the 15 months he has spent in custody since his arrest should be subtracted from his prison term. (Reuter)

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India blames West for failure on test ban treaty

NEW DELHI (AP) - India is trying to shift blame from itself for scuttling a nuclear test ban treaty, saying yesterday the West adopted double standards and attempted to push through a flawed text. India refused to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Geneva after the five nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China - refused to commit themselves to a timetable for eliminating their arsenals. India says it can't sign away the right to make nuclear weapons because it is trapped in a three-cornered arms race in the Asian Subcontinent. It has to keep up with China, while Pakistan has to match India's capabilities. "We cannot accept constraints on our option as long as nuclear weapon states continue to rely on nuclear arsenals for their security," Gujral said. In his first elaborate statement after India effectively blocked the treaty in Geneva, Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said although the text was modified to accommodate China, negotiators paid scant attention to India's concerns. "We were told that the text could not be modified but as we have seen, the draft text has been modified to accommodate one country's concerns," Gujral said.

Clinton signs welfare overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton put his signature yesterday on a historic overhaul of America's welfare system. He promised the legislation will "recreate the nation's social bargain with the poor" by compelling welfare recipients to go to work. In his third White House ceremony this week, Clinton signed into law a new state-run network of aid, ending six decades of guaranteed federal cash assistance to the poor. The ceremony, in the Rose Garden of the White House, is the president's third effort in as many days to take the headlines away from Republican rival Bob Dole by giving a dramatic send-off to high-profile legislation. On Tuesday Clinton signed a bill raising the minimum wage, and on Wednesday he approved a law that ends the practice of denying health insurance coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and ensures workers access to health insurance when they change jobs. The welfare transformation ends a federal guarantee to the poor that has existed since the days of President Franklin Roosevelt. It was denounced by many erstwhile Clinton allies. Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, called it a "moment of shame - the biggest betrayal of children and the poor." But it is expected to appeal to a broad range of moderate to conservative voters.

Clinton is considering a package of proposals to ease the burden on welfare recipients. It includes a possible tax break for firms that hire people off welfare rolls and a series of economic development ideas aimed at areas with large shares of welfare recipients. The proposals will be unveiled next week at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as part of Clinton's list of initiatives and goals for a second term. Clinton twice vetoed Republican welfare proposals, denouncing them as "extremist" plans that would hurt children. But he agreed to sign the third version, even though it contained provisions he opposed, including deep cuts in child nutrition programs and tough restrictions on granting welfare to legal aliens and their families. Clinton vows to work to repeal these provisions if he wins a second term. The new law ends the open-ended guarantee of aid to the poor, saving an estimated \$54b. over six years. It sets a lifetime limit of five years of welfare for each family. It requires all able-bodied adults to work after two years of welfare, but has a hardship escape hatch for up to 20 percent of recipients. Under its terms, the states would take over management responsibilities, receiving federal block grants to run welfare programs, as well as authority to set most of the rules.

נפלה עשרת ראשונו We mourn the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend MURRAY J. RICK

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother HANNAH GREENBAUM

The Israeli Society of Aerospace Medicine mourns the passing of its longtime member Dr. MILTON GORDON

To: Shimon and Efraim Liniel and their families We share your deep sorrow at the passing of your beloved RIVKA

הלואה מן האל

# A general's fall from power

His top aides have been arrested, and relations with Arafat are tense. Steve Rodan profiles General Nasser Yusef, the Palestine Police commander.

SIX months ago, Gen. Nasser Yusef arrived at a Tel Aviv hotel to receive a prize for his efforts for peace and cooperation with Israel. He was surrounded by an unlikely crowd of Israeli left-wing activists and Jewish settlers with beards and kippot. One of the participants, watching the warm reception and the hugging of Israelis and Palestinians, whispered to a colleague: "I wonder how this is playing back in Gaza?"

Apparently not very well. The 53-year-old general, who then was promoting dialogue and cooperation with Israel, has today fallen from power. He still has his office in the former Civil Administration headquarters in Gaza City, but his authority as commander of the 16,000-member Palestinian police force is in name only. Moreover, two of his aides have been arrested and held without charges in an unknown location in Gaza by Yasser Arafat's Force 17, Palestinian sources say.

Human rights activists, including those from Amnesty International, say Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi was grabbed by agents from his office in front of Yusef himself on July 7. Shukairi has been held incommunicado ever since. Also, on July 1, Sgt. Mohammed Ri'fat, the general's driver, disappeared. Both men are said to have been tortured and Palestinian sources say Ri'fat may have been killed. Human rights groups say at least seven detainees have died in PA custody since July 1994, apparently of torture.

Palestinian sources, none of whom agree to be named, now say that both men are being accused of treason and espionage and PA investigators suspect that Yusef is involved. The sources say two attorneys, one of them identified as Sami Mikdad, the other, a senior PLO official from Washington, are also in detention in Gaza. "The word is that these people, with Nasser Yusef, were planning some sort of coup," Bassem Eid, a human rights activist who has taken up the case, says. "Let me stress that these are all just rumors."

Palestinian sources close to Yusef dismiss the assertions. They say the general is a victim of his own success. A university graduate with degrees in history and

Islamic economy, he has built close relations with the Israelis, Americans and other foreigners impressed by his stress on education and democracy. At the same time, he has aroused the jealousy and resentment of other senior PA officials.

At a recent session of the Fatah Central Committee in Cairo, Yusef was criticized for his ties with Jewish settlers. His response was that Palestinians needed to meet a wide spectrum of Israelis, rather than merely those who agree with them. "Nasser Yusef goes up and down," a Palestinian source says. "He has a lot of rivals. He's deeply involved in talks with Hamas because he's one of the few religious men in PA security forces. But because he is an organizational man he made some people around Arafat see him as a threat. They talk to Arafat daily about his meetings with Israeli right-wingers and Hamas."

His meetings, which he has sought not to publicize, have included those with the most nationalist of Jewish settlements in the territories, such as Hebron and Kiryat Arba. "Nasser Yusef is a good friend, with a good soul," says Rabbi Menachem Fruman, a settlement leader from Tekoa, who has spent hours with him at the general's home in Gaza. "The friendship stems from the fact that for several years I have felt that existence of Jewish settlements is a Palestinian interest, and I found somebody in the Palestinian camp - he's not the only one - that believes the same thing." "He is not against Arafat," the rabbi adds. "He is just stepping ahead of the other Palestinians on [the issue of] what will be the quality of the state, not just the establishment of the state itself."

LIKE MOST senior PA officials, Yusef's road with Arafat has been a rocky one. In 1994, after Yusef doubled the salaries of police officers from the PA from \$400, Arafat threatened to fire him and replace him with his deputy, Brig. Gen. Ziad Atrash.

Unlike his colleagues, however, Yusef has usually spoken his mind. In an interview with Israel Radio in 1994, months after he assumed office, Yusef said he knew the identities of the killers of two Israelis. "I have no prob-



Nasser Yusef: According to rumors, he was 'planning some sort of coup.' (Brian Hender)

lem arresting them," he said. "However, we have not received any instructions [to do so]."

Palestinian sources say Yusef, along with the heads of other security forces, asked Arafat many times for permission to arrest and even kill Hamas terrorists. The answer was always no. Sources close to Yusef say despite disagreements with Arafat, the general always sought permission for every step he took. The problem, they recall, is that Arafat would later deny that he gave the green light. "Nasser did not do anything in his life without the permission of Arafat," a source close to the general says. "Indeed, Nasser is afraid of Arafat. But Arafat may have asked him to do something and then embarrassed him. Arafat does this often."

By March, however, Yusef's relations with Arafat underwent serious strains. Sources close to the general say the argument regarding Mohammed Deif, the

going on," a Palestinian security source says, "but usually after it happens."

At the same time, Yusef's rivals tried to exploit the tensions with Arafat to oust the general from his post. Those tensions increased after the Israeli election and the ascent of the Likud-led government. Yusef, given permission by Arafat, held several meetings with Likud leaders, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to meet the PA chief. Palestinian sources say Yusef's rivals found their opportunity last month when PA security services revealed at least one plot to overthrow Arafat.

Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen and No. 2 in the PA, says several conspiracies were uncovered but Palestinian security sources say Arafat never felt under real threat.

Still, Arafat's trusted bodyguards decided to act. Force 17 deputy commander Faisal Abu Sarah ordered Yusef's offices raided and Shukairi arrested. Palestinian sources recall Yusef tried to prevent Shukairi's arrest and contact Arafat, who was then abroad.

The general also warned Force 17, Arafat's praetorian guard, that he would expose the corruption of the PA, a threat he never carried out.

To Yusef's rivals, Shukairi was the link between the general and the international community. Fluent in several languages, including Hebrew and English, the major introduced to his commander diplomats, industrialists and politicians from around the world.

Privately, however, Yusef continues to speak out. He has close ties to many in the Fatah Central Committee and its recent meeting predicted serious problems in the rival Palestinian security services. Yesterday, he was scheduled to meet Arafat, who returned from Tunis to discuss what the general feels is a campaign against him. At the same time, he is also preparing to travel to Jordan for an indefinite period.

Some Palestinian security sources predict Yusef will eventually bounce back the way other close aides to Arafat did.

But they are not as certain whether his aides will share the same fate. Irwin Cotler, a human rights attorney and professor at McGill University in Montreal, has offered to represent Shukairi.

But his family has rejected the request, saying the major is in no danger. "Part of the problem," begins Cotler, "is that unlike the former-Yugoslavia, Western governments have not linked here peace and human rights issues."

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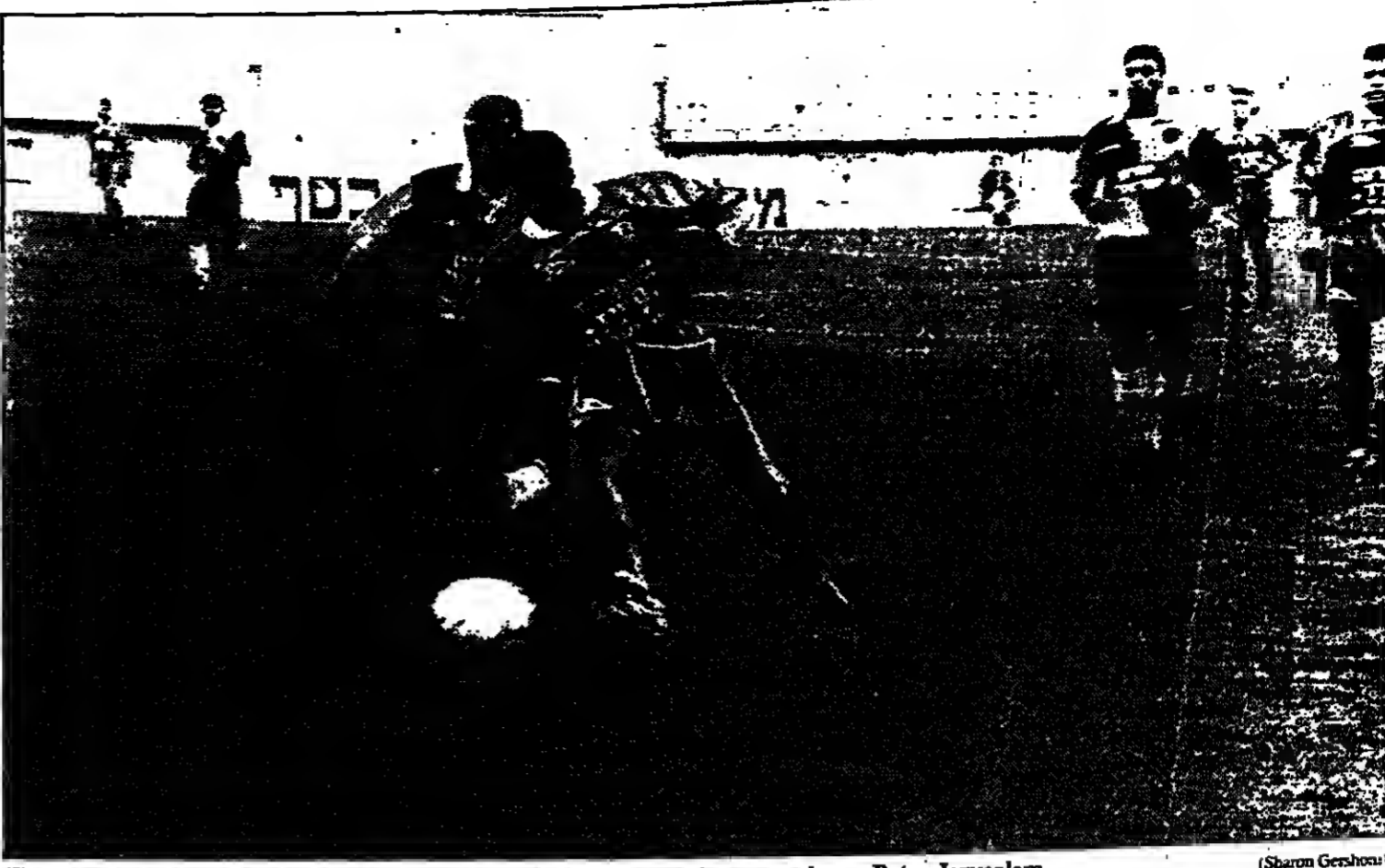
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# Hapoel Taiba breaks new ground

**Derek Fattal and Ori Lewis discover what motivates the National League's first Arab soccer team**

**I**F SPORT often mirrors life, (and never more so than with soccer, regarded across the world as the "people's game"), then Hapoel Taiba's progress perhaps reflects the mainstreaming of the Arab sector into Israeli society. The clubs' present ground, on a hill overlooking this Arab town of 28,000, in the Sharon agricultural belt has been its home for the last 10 years. Sited adjacent to an open rubbish tip, the "stadium" is, in the view of club chairman Abdul Rahman Haj Yihye, "a disgrace to Israeli football and Israeli society."

government exacerbates the situation making it harder to plan, build or manage proper civil amenities. Apart from soccer, there is no other outlet for the youth, there is no cinema, no park or other recreational facility to speak of. Soccer is the only game in town — which partly explains the fanatical following for Hapoel Taiba.



Hapoel Taiba plays with the big boys now, such as in this game against powerhouse Betar Jerusalem. (Sharon Gershoni)

## The home ground

There's not a single green blade of grass in sight, just bone-dry clumps of growth amidst bare dusty topsoil, stretching from one goalmouth to the other. "It's no longer possible for our first team to even train here, we're now taking them to Wingate," Abdul Rahman Haj Yihye, chairman of Hapoel Taiba soccer club does not reveal a hint of concern as he speaks. His nonchalant attitude suggests that the beginning of the new league season is months away. In fact Taiba, the first Israeli-Arab side to win promotion to the country's premier division, the National League, faces its opening league match against Ironi Rishon LeZion tomorrow. As the facilities at the 2,500-capacity municipal ground do not meet the Israel Football Association's minimum standard for National League play, Taiba's home matches will be played in Netanya for the first half of the coming season. "Our board is due to discuss in the next few days, with the town council, whether to refurbish the ground or to build a new stadium at another site," says Haj Yihye who estimates construction costs of around NIS 5 million. The money would undoubtedly be well spent, as the current ground looks, it blends well into the surroundings — the rubbish tip. The dressing rooms make the toilets at Tel Aviv's old bus station look luxurious. Haj Yihye explains that the pitch was ruined after the water supply failed six days earlier. "It's just one of those things. It wasn't even anyone's fault. The two supply pumps to this area of the town broke down at the same time. I can't make a big fuss about it when people in the neighborhood do not even have drinking water at the moment." *O.L. and D.F.*

**O**UTSIDE the community, it is not uncommon for most Israelis to still consider Taiba a no-go area, and some Jews continue to relate to their fellow-Arab countrymen as being the enemy within. With this sort of image problem, it is not difficult to understand why the taunts and cries of "death to the Arabs" are heard on the terraces at soccer matches involving the club. Two weeks ago, the Taiba fans traveled to Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium where Betar fans taunted them with that same abusive language.

Rami, a transportation contractor and another member of the Haj Yihye clan which numbers thousands in the town, is completely unfazed by such behavior. "It's something that happens in football, it just doesn't bother me," he said. The problem also occurred last season when Taiba was similarly jibed by some Kiryat Shmona supporters at an away game. The following week, Taiba supporters chanted "death to the Jews" when the team played against Maccabi Acre — the incident received significant press coverage.

Although the Israel Football Association issued a condemnation against racism two weeks ago, no special steps have been taken to cope with the outbursts. Abdul Rahman feels that the phenomenon is one which will sort itself out with time, and that such behavior — however unpleasant — is best not blown out of context. Another supporter, Karem Haj Yihye, reckons that there will only be a couple of matches at which the taunts might be repeated and violence could erupt, but he is looking forward to the good things he expects the season to bring. "Things changed for us with the peace process. There's been a different atmosphere since then, it has strengthened our feeling as Israelis," says Karem, he also points out that it has made him and his contemporaries more confident as Arabs.

"There was a time in the past when we were working as waiters at hotels and would be embarrassed to speak Arabic in front of Jews. Now I wouldn't think twice about it." For Rafat Haj Yihye, a high school geography teacher, peace is now a fact. "Once, we identified with the Palestinians, now we have no connection with them. The closure means they never come here, we have no contact with them." None of the clan follow Palestinian sport, and the Palestinian issue no longer has any bearing on their national attitudes or identity. Likewise, Palestinian acquaintances have no interest in the club. When quizzed about the national side, Karem assertively responds, "Look, we support Israel as much as Hapoel Taiba. I went to all the European [Championship] games over the last couple of years."

Karem then begins bemoaning the national squad's recent pathetic display in Romania earlier and the consensus of opinion is that the chances of qualifying for the World Cup, with the likes of Bulgaria and Russia being the main contenders, are very slim. He

remembers the days when Zahi Arneli and Rifat Turk played in the national blue and white colors and hopes that there will be another representative from the Arab sector in the national team before too long.

**S**UPPORT for the club is not confined to the town says Abdul Rahman. "The club has become a beacon for the whole Israeli-Arab sector. Arab fans come to games from the Negev and the Galilee. The Israeli-Arab community wants success for us." Abdul Rahman believes that Jews will also become drawn to the club as the season progresses and Taiba's attractive methodical game attracts new supporters. In Taiba and the surrounding area, the support is particularly keen. Ordinary people regularly donate money to the club through door-to-door collections.

This season the club has an operating budget of NIS 53 million which is made up of the usual grants from the IFA, the Sportoto pool, the Hapoel organization and sponsorship and broadcast rights. NIS 1.5 million of the budget comes from the Taiba municipality.

But the club still needs to attract a major sponsor. Abdul Rahman does not feel that there is a multi-millionaire patron in the Arab community who can do for the club what millionaires Rubie Shapira or Ya'acov Shabar have done for soccer in Haifa.

Over the summer, Taiba signed a new coach, Wojtek Lazarek from Poland. Lazarek previously coached Hapoel Kfar Sava several years ago and he has also had experience coaching in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Two new Jewish players have been contracted, an attacker Sahar Mizrahi from Bnei Yehuda, and goalkeeper Mickey Dahan, who took the opportunity to move back to the National League. Taiba has also signed two foreign players, one a Pole, the other a Romanian.

Despite the problems, the Taiba board is confident that the club can adjust to life in the big time. They are aiming for a place in the top ten and will pay out bonuses to



When Taiba plays, everyone in town gets involved, including Mayor Rafik Haj Yihye (standing). (Sharon Gershoni)

the squad if the team ends in the top five. Abdul Rahman feels what has happened to the club is the culmination of correct planning over the years and a commitment to playing positive soccer. Despite the team's Arab background, he feels that it is just another outfit amongst a group of

16. He sees nothing abnormal or strange about an Arab club finally making it into the National League. Just as Arabs are now an integral part of Israeli society, in his view they are now taking their rightful place in the game. If the upbeat Taiba fans have

their way, it won't be long before the side is making it's mark further afield than Israel. Karem and his friends predict that within two years upwardly mobile Hapoel Taiba will be representing the country in the European Cup, and standing to attention while *Haikva* is played.

## Taiba mayor keeps club close to his heart

**H**APOEL Taiba's most famous supporter is the town's mayor, Rafik Haj Yihye, who is the eighth member of the team's management committee.

The charismatic and often controversial mayor can always be found in the thick of the action, and is often on the management bench when the team is playing.

When the team were stranded at Larnaca airport on their return from a training camp in Poland, Rafik took charge of the situation. "I made a couple of phone calls to get things moving and we had planes sent to pick us up," he said after the passengers' ordeal in which the LOT airlines plane made an emergency landing in Cyprus following a bomb scare. After the plane was cleared to continue its journey to Ben Gurion Airport, many passengers, including the whole of the Taiba squad and their mayor, refused to get back on the plane and were left behind

to fend for themselves. The tall, lean Rafik does not hide his sentiments for the club. And when, in the middle of last season, a match against Hapoel Ramat Gan was stopped in controversial circumstances, Haj Yihye began undressing in front of the TV cameras, saying that those who wanted to see Hapoel Taiba fail in their promotion bid would first have to draw blood from his body.

Haj Yihye's town still has many election posters and stickers on walls and lamp posts, not surprisingly, they do not have any connection with the present government. Pictures of Shimon Peres and green Meretz stickers are the most common. Rafik was No. 36 on the Labor Knesset list, but failed to win his seat. He was also previously shortlisted to become Israel's first-ever Arab ambassador, but his appointment to the post in Finland was never confirmed.

*O.L. and D.F.*

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start with a preemptive opening in hearts left his partner in the dark about the heart suit. East, if he felt daring, might have started with a bid of three hearts or a more prosaic weak two-bid in hearts. One of the finest definitions of the weak two-bid applies here. It comes from Ira Rubin, a great rubber bridge player in New York and former world champion. "The purpose of a weak two-bid is to get the suit into the bidding before you don't have a chance." After East's pass, South opened the bidding one diamond and West over-called two spades. West's preempt created a problem for North, who wanted to show diamond support and force to game. He solved the problem by cuebidding three spades. South now bid three notrump, and this became the final contract. Perhaps by now the reader has noticed that the defense can take the first six heart tricks against three notrump. But remember, East never showed his hearts! West led the queen of spades, won in dummy by force with the king. Declarer could count seven top winners, two spades and five clubs, and could envision some diamond tricks after dislodging the ace. However, there was an obvious hole in the heart suit. If declarer attacked diamonds, wouldn't the defenders attack hearts? Niek Brink, sitting South, found a psychological solution to this problem. In order to discourage the defenders from cashing heart tricks, he decided to attack the suit himself! At trick two, he called for a heart from dummy and, when East played low, South put up the queen. West, under the impression that declarer had just taken a heart finesse, won the king of hearts and continued spades, hoping his partner held the ten. South won the trick with the ten and was now up to eight tricks. Another famous saying, attributed to New York's Elgar Kaplan, is: "Where there's eight, there's nine." Declarer next led a low diamond from his hand, and West, not suspecting that his partner held all the top hearts, failed to take his ace, allowing dummy to win the king. Declarer quickly ran for home; he showed his cards, claiming five club tricks and the ace of spades, to make his contract. Notice East may have saved the defense. When declarer led a heart at trick two, East should have played the jack, to indicate a strong sequence.

THE Junior and Schools Championships of Europe, which were held at the University of Wales, in Cardiff, last month, were hailed by all the young players as a great success. Teams were grouped by country. Winner of the Junior event (ages 25 and under), in which 26 countries took part, was Norway, followed by Russia in second place and Denmark third. The top three teams in this event qualified for the World Junior Championships next summer in Canada. Israel was fourth and might take the place of Russia in the World Championships if the Russian team cannot raise funds for the trip. The Israeli team included Aran Varshavski, Nir Katz, Assaf Amit, Yaniv Zack, Amir Levin and Eran Mermelstein. In the Schools event (high school division), involving 14 countries, first place went to Germany, with Israel second and Great Britain third. The Israeli silver medalists were Shiran Faur, Yochai Guisky, Assa Levinger, Nadav Ron, Ran Schneider and Yaniv Wax.

TODAY'S deal comes from a match in the Schools Championship between the Netherlands and Russia. The South player was awarded the best play of the championship. The bidding, or in this case the lack of bidding, was key to the success of the final contract. The main error occurred on the very first call by East, when he passed in first seat. East's failure to



With its tall, graceful stems and bright green leaves, hollyhocks are a most pleasant sight along the roadways. (Leora Cheahin)

The wild, yet graceful hollyhock flower

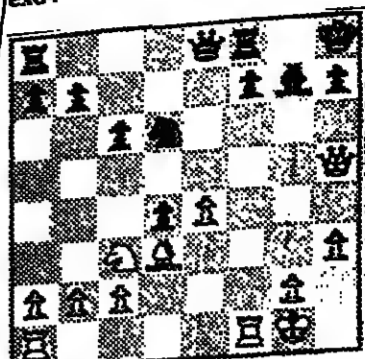
THERE are quite a number of wildflowers in Israel that are the basic stock from which our domestic garden flowers have been developed. In many cases, the wild relative is as striking as the domestic plant but usually more limited in its range of colors. Hollyhocks are such an example. There are two kinds in the country, both of which are pink. During the summer we see the half-dried plant with a multitude of soon-to-be scattered seeds. But in the early spring, in fact, while it's still officially winter, we see the real beauty of the plant. The first is the one that most closely resembles the hollyhocks that is commonly known from a summer flower garden: in Latin it's called *Alcea setosa*, the Bristly Hollyhock known as *hamit zifnit* in Hebrew. Like all hollyhocks, it is a mem-

ber of the mallow family. With its tall, graceful stems and bright green leaves contrasting with its many flowers, it is a most pleasant sight along the roadways. The leaves and stems are covered with fine bristles, making the plant unattractive to grazing cattle, and consequently it is not uncommon to see large clumps of these hollyhocks standing in an otherwise closely grazed field. The plant produces a vast number of seeds that scatter easily, and even though birds, especially finches, find the seeds a treat, there are plenty left for sprouting, which takes place during the winter rains. But not all are from new seeds, since the plant is a hardy perennial. Although the stems and leaves disappear in summer, the plant comes up anew from its large fleshy roots. The plant grows to its full height before the end of winter and then blooms throughout May and June. The flowers range from dark to light pink, with an occasional almost white with a pinkish hue. This occurs in areas where the plant is truly wild. In the areas near some settlements, cross-pollination with domesticated hollyhocks - which come in a large array of mauves, purples and even reds - has produced some interesting feral plants in a variety of

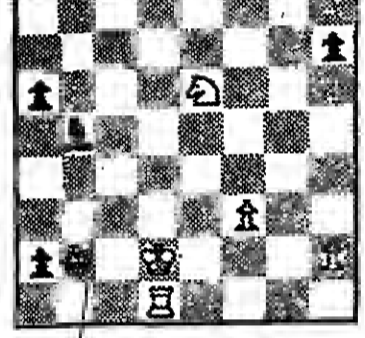
shades. The second hollyhock is the Stemless Hollyhock, *Alcea acutis*, called *hamit ain-haperach* in Hebrew. Unlike the tall Bristly Hollyhock, the Stemless Hollyhock has large leaves that lie flat on the ground and flower stems that are very short. This plant blooms a bit earlier than the tall variety and has usually disappeared by the end of May. Its flowers are deeper in color than the Bristly Hollyhock, pink but almost purplish so. Hollyhocks grow along most of the Mediterranean coast but seem to be more plentiful in the hilly areas. The Galilee is particularly blessed with this plant, and in some areas the fields can appear quite pink with them. There are also quite a few in other places, especially around Jerusalem. Someone has also deliberately sown them around the destroyed vehicles that serve as a memorial of the War of Independence along the approach to Jerusalem, and they come up year after year and are always in full bloom for Independence Day.

Return to sender

ONE of the most enigmatic arenas of chess activity is perhaps correspondence chess. Many of these games have literally gone on for years. Although sometimes conducted by way of telephone, radio, telegraph and more recently through E-Mail, it is through the post that it has earned its reputation. According to former World Correspondence Chess Champion Ya'akov Estrin, participation in correspondence tournaments "equips the chess player with the essential skills and habits of independent chess research." This enables him or her to leisurely analyse each new position and so get a tighter grip on the intricacies within. Games can be played without the nervous tension which so often emanates from face to face confrontation. The English orientalist Thomas Hyde believed that postal chess dated back to as early as 160, when Venetian and Slavic merchants, while exchanging various goods, also sent chess moves. The first recorded correspondence game was played between the chess players of the Hague and Breda in 1804. In 1837 the notorious Russian master Petrov played a consultation game against players from St. Petersburg. In 1828 the Nizam of Hyderabad, one of the richest men in the world at the time, sponsored a correspondence match between Madras and Hyderabad, two cities separated by several hundred kilometers of jungle. Each city was represented by two leading Indian players. The moves were sealed in an envelope inside a silver box and were carried to and forth by an overworked and underpaid messenger elephant. As bad luck would have it, the hapless Shah Sahib, Hyderabad's number one, died at the critical point of one of the games. His replacement went on to lose both his games. POSTAL CHESS is a fine alternative for the physically handicapped who cannot attend regular tournaments, and also for hermits who find human company an ordeal. Bobby Fischer could well fit into the second category.



19.Rf6!!, the killer blow. If the rook is now captured with 19...Bxf6 Benko's f pawn is blocked. He had no doubt expected 19.e5 f5! 19...Kf8 20.e5 h6 21.Ne2!, On 21.Rxd6 Black would have survived to battle out the endgame with 21...Qxe5!! Now there is no defence to the threat of Rxd6 1-0 Ya'akov Estrin was the World Correspondence Champion for 14 years between 1975-1989. In his game against Boey from the 1978-81 10th World Correspondence Championship, Estrin (White) to move looks as if he will have to be content with a draw. Although materially ahead, his Rook will have to be exchanged with Black's forward A pawn as soon as it promotes. But Estrin who later commented "the charm of chess lies in its total unpredictability," defied the obvious and discovered an enchanting winning line. White to play and win.



Solution: 1.Ra1!! Estrin sacrificed his rook but actually leaves Black's A pawn on the board. 1...Kxal 2.Kc1! paralyzing and rendering both Black's King and A pawn totally useless. 2.Bc4 3.Nd4 a5 4.f4 1-0

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 One providing personal cover for his customers (9); 6 Plant part pales out of recognition (5); 9 Drive into rickety cart, an old vehicle (7); 10 Removing a burden? (9); 11 Coming from German river, damaged her shin (7); 12 He was killed stone dead! (7); 13 Still suffocating because of it? (3,1,6,2,3); 18 Stop being watertight (7); 20 Stage show featuring malicious woman going round undressed (7); 22 Strange fellow included patient chap who does casual work (3-6); 23 A sombre, angry man (7); 24 Chopper? (5); 25 A girl on the shelf returning a bloomer (9); DOWN: 1 Sought by police at the double? (2,3,3); 2 Religious wing? (8); 3 Trendy reporter, before one, bad nightmares (6); 4 Songster has throat trouble (6); 5 Danger signal seen entering this district of the city? (3-5); 6 Lagers overturned before ten, it appears, in the baren (8); 7 Boy in a film (6); 8 The extent of the swimming-pool perhaps (6); 14 Bowman has port! (4,4); 15 Almost transitory insect (8); 16 A flier with Bond's prefix designed something to give a lift (8); 17 Having no pity, hurls out of control on Sunday (8); 18 Backwater near Windsor? (6); 19 A new doctor's in-what's his name? (6); 20 Question the lady's ability in the country (6); 21 Excited, having champagne? (6)

SOLUTIONS: SHAMELESS CUP, SIGNATORY ASST, PERSONAGE DIVN, RATION, DIRECT, SCARY ORA, TRAMOLS INSPECT, ANSCIPIT, RATION, DIRECT, QUIVER, ANSCIPIT, REPER, STATEMENT

QUICK CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 1 Overdue (4); 3 Grieving (8); 9 Prize-fighter (5); 10 Allspice (7); 11 Ship's record (3); 13 Pragmatic (9); 14 Thin (6); 16 Fervour (6); 18 Repeat quickly from memory (6,3); 20 Stitch (3); 22 Appearing (7); 23 Walked into water (5); 25 Guaranteeing (8); 26 Be aware of (4); DOWN: 1 Defamation (5); 2 Southern American (abbrev) (3); 4 Parentless child (6); 5 More distant (7); 6 Harmless (9); 7 Horse-drawn cab (7); B Cover (4); 12 Innocent (9); 14 Anticipate (7); 15 Military man (7); 17 Oppugn (anag) (3-3); 19 Beige (4); 21 Relict (5); 24 Row (3)

Together, we can make a better world

- FUNDS: BEVERLEE BLACK: THE Forsake Me Not Fund, following recommendations by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, has provided basic necessities for elderly people in need. Dental care was high on our list of priorities. In many cases, we paid for eye glasses, hearing aids, medical treatment and operations. The Toy Fund gave over 20,000 children, in foster care and in institutions, toys and games for Hanukka. We supplied community centers in deprived neighborhoods with sports and physical-fitness equipment. The Welcome Home Fund has been concentrating efforts on raising funds to provide scholarships for education or technical training for new immigrants and young Israelis completing army service. This year we gave NIS 90,000 to students at Hebrew University, the Movement for Fighting Poverty in Israel and just recently, to needy students studying at the Open University. Please help us to continue this important work. Those in need are counting on you. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

EITIM - PENS: 30 Rehov Azza, Rehavia, Jerusalem. Tel. 5671824. The Biggest Selection of Limited Edition Pens. CARAN d'ACHE, PELKAN, B&B, MONTBLANC, LAMY, AUFORA, PILOT, ROTRING, MONTEGRAPPA, SHEAFFER, ELYSEE, VISCONTI, CROSS, PARKER, YARD, O'LED, OMAS, WATERMAN. Includes donation tables for FORSAKE ME NOT, WELCOME HOME FUND, and TOY FUND.

האזנה מאלו





BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, August 23, 1996

15

Construction of apartments down 36% in first half of year

DAVID HARRIS

THE number of apartments built in the first half of the year was down 36 percent from the same period last year to 23,440, 11% lower than the second half of 1995, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. The bulk of the slowdown took place in the public sector.

homes were built, down 15%. In the second quarter, 6,920 were built, down 18% from the first quarter and 23% fewer than the corresponding period last year.

ITT Sheraton becomes partner in Koor Hotels

HAIM SHAPIRO

IN a major development in the local tourism industry, ITT Sheraton International yesterday took over 50 percent of the ownership of Koor Hotels and Resorts, which presently manages the Paradise hotel chain.



Benny Gaon (left), director of the Koor conglomerate, and Robert Cotter, Sheraton Europe president, yesterday sign a deal giving ITT-Sheraton a 50 percent stake in Koor Hotels.

national company would back its commitment with further investments, although he could not say when such investments would be made or with what magnitude.

Gaon also expressed the hope that the link with ITT Sheraton would forge a connection between Koor and ITT Sheraton's parent company, ITT, especially in the capital market.

Leumi: Insurance spin-off to proceed as planned

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi will spin off Leumi Insurance Holdings from the Africa Israel holding company in an attempt to complete its transaction with Italy's Assicurazioni Generali, the bank said in an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Wertheimer-Zisser consortium has withdrawn its bid to participate in the tender to purchase Bank Leumi's 25 percent surplus holding in Africa Israel. The consortium has agreed not to participate in the tender, directly or indirectly, via another investor.

The withdrawal follows Bank Leumi's spin-off decision. Generali has offered to purchase 40% of Leumi Insurance at a value of \$1 billion, but completion of the transaction remains subject to the Treasury's approval of the bank's request for a six-month extension of the December 31 deadline for selling its surplus non-banking assets.

If Bank Leumi does not receive the extension, the Generali deal is likely to be cancelled and the bank will have to sell Africa Israel as one unit. In this case, Bank Leumi said it "intends to enter negotiations with one of the bidders that took part in the tender for Africa Israel."

The Wertheimer-Zisser group had hoped Africa Israel general manager Shlomo Grofman could prevent the spin-off, but following his resignation Wednesday they decided there is no point in bidding for Africa Israel. Bank Leumi said the bids it received in the tender for the purchase of all of Africa Israel are lower than it had expected, and lower than Generali's.

Accent releases new Hebrew software: Accent Software Systems (Kivun) has announced the release of the Hebrew version of Corel Draw 6. The graphics program allows users to create and change pictures without cutting and pasting and to pass from Hebrew to other languages. Computer opens new school: Computer, the Herzliya-based computer center, has established a new school for the study of computers. In the first stage, the school will offer four computer classes. For information, call Ron Barak, (09) 550999. Kateronics joins with US firm to make electronic car: Kateronics, a Herzliya-based company that is part of the Rada (Nasdaq) group, has joined with the Idaho-based company AMI to manufacture electronic cars. Optimedia will produce CD-Rom for Elsevier: British publishing house Elsevier has selected Optimedia to produce a CD-Rom that will include 15 books on seismology. The agreement is reportedly worth NIS 260,000.

Construction begins on power plant in Ashkelon

DAVID HARRIS

THE Israel Electric Corporation began work yesterday on its \$1.6 billion coal-fired power station just south of Ashkelon.

Named after the founder of Israel's original electric corporation, Rutenberg, the station will comprise two units, each capable of generating 550 megawatts of electricity.

The first of the generators is expected to be operational by the winter of 2000.

"This is the technological last word; electricity that will be produced comparatively cheaply and a station that is almost totally free of environmental pollution," Electric Corp. Chairman Gad Ya'acobi said.

"The Electric Corp. is demanding that the infrastructure development of the electricity infrastructure market in Israel become the fastest in the entire western world," managing director Rafi Peled said. The existing Rutenberg station has been the cause of controversy between the Electric Corp. and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Perat. The original twin 550 MW-unit power plant was to be operational by 1986. But only one unit was put into operation in August 1990 and the second unit became operational in November 1991. Last year's State Comptroller's report criticized both the Electric Corp. for not meeting its deadlines, as well as the Electric Corp.'s board of directors for not moving the project along when it became stalled.

Zim's first-half net income up 20%

COMPANY RESULTS GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

ZIM Israel Navigation Co. Ltd., yesterday reported semi-annual net income of \$4.2 million, up 20 percent from \$3.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company's total net income through June stood at \$700.3m., compared to \$702.5m. last June.

Operating expenses and related services rose to \$626.2m. in the first six months, an increase of \$6.7m., this the company says was because of the increase in the quantity of cargo carried.

The number of containers carried increased by 5% to 449,900. Despite that increase, income turnover is lower by 0.3%, because of an ongoing erosion of freight rate levels in most trade areas. The erosion is the result of "the growing gap between supply and demand of tonnage, both in Israeli and international trade," according to a company statement.

However, with world trade growing at a yearly 5% to 7%, forecasts suggest the gap between supply and demand of carrying volume should be reduced.

Co-Op Blue Square Property and Investments, one of the country's leading retail chains, reported a small drop in net profits for the second quarter of 1996 despite a high growth in sales.

Second quarter profits fell to NIS 16.94 million compared to NIS 17.97m. in the corresponding period last year. Net profits in the first six months of the year increased 36.4% to NIS 30.82m. compared to NIS 22.59m.

Sales grew 32% in the second quarter of 1996, to NIS 638m. compared to NIS 484.2m. The growth was due to an increase in food sales and also the merger of Hamashbir Lazarchan Tel Aviv and Hamashbir Lazarchan Haifa at the start of 1996.

Ya'acov Gelbani, chairman of the board of directors of Blue Square Property and Investments, said Hamashbir Lazarchan is scheduled to open two new branches, on a total area of 3,600 sq.m., by the end of the year. So far, the chain has opened a 2,700 sq.m. branch in Karmiel and a 1,800

company, announced a net profit of NIS 347,000 in the second quarter of 1996 compared to NIS 5.8m. in the corresponding period last year.

The drop in earnings was due, among others, to a 21% drop in sales turnover, to NIS 123.8m. The decrease was also a result of a drop in steel prices worldwide and increased competition in the ceramics field which reduced its subsidiary, Negev Ceramics, contribution to the group's earnings.

Israel General Bank completed the second quarter of 1996 with a 13.7% drop in net profits to NIS 3.31m. compared to a net profit of NIS 3.83m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year fell 24.2% to NIS 5.53m. compared to NIS 7.3m. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 4.9% in the first half compared to 6.8%.

Management said earnings were hindered by a drop in earnings from financing operations in the first half, to NIS 15.2m. compared to NIS 21.4m. The decrease was due to an erosion in profits in the shekel sector and also investments in the financial markets.

Operating and other income increased 8.6% in the first six months to NIS 29.8m. compared to NIS 27.4m. Operating and other expenses rose to NIS 35.01m. compared to NIS 34.3m.

Total assets rose to NIS 2.23b. from NIS 2.17b. at the end of 1995. Credit to the public grew to NIS 1.07b. from NIS 1.05b.

Paeker Flada, the Kfar Sava-headquartered steel-related holding

Advertisement for Leumi Mortgage Bank. Text: 'Leumi Mortgage Bank continues to give you the full range of mortgages and now offers you: ADAPTABLE MORTGAGE The only mortgage that adapts for you according to existing market conditions with an obligation to grant a mortgage linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at a fixed and preferred interest rate after a period of one year.\*' Includes a large graphic of a mountain.

Is the interest rate high? Do you expect that from now on it can only go down? "Adaptable Mortgage" enables you to choose, during the first year, the linkage track you prefer and thereafter to change course to a linkage option carrying a fixed and preferred interest rate. With "Adaptable Mortgage" you now ensure yourself a mortgage linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) carrying a fixed interest rate that might be lower than the present rate. In the meantime, you can choose between the PRIME course or the US-linkage course and switch over from one to the other throughout the year. For example: You've chosen linkage to the dollar, and you anticipate devaluation? Change over to the PRIME-linkage course! And all that without any limitations and expenses. Details at all Leumi Mortgage Bank representative offices at Bank Leumi branches.

Advertisement for Israel Discount Bank. Text: 'Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?' Includes an illustration of a person with a briefcase.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES).

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks up on hope of rate cut

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCK investors will be watching the central bank with some optimism that governor Jacob Frenkel will order an interest rate cut on Monday. The stock indexes rose yesterday, led by shares of Koor Industries Ltd., Africa-Israel Investments and Clal Trading. The broader market was weaker, with two issues falling for every one that rose. Trading remained below the monthly average. "Specific shares are giving a little boost to the market," said Zvi Stepak, co-managing director of Tel Aviv securities firm Meitav Ltd. At the same time, some investors are now expecting either a cut or a reduction of perhaps 0.5 percentage points because of the government's continuing budget deficits, Stepak said. And withdrawals from the provident funds are continuing, he said, which also could pressure stock prices. The Two-Sided Index rose 0.66 percent to 173.28, while the Maof Index advanced 0.82% to 184.16. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 56.4 million of shares traded, 11% below the month's daily average of NIS 63.2m. The most active issue was Koor Industries Ltd., up 2% on NIS 5.4m of shares traded. Koor rose as the company entered a joint venture with hotel chain ITT Sheraton.

London shares hit high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks bounded higher yesterday after Germany surprised markets with a greater than expected cut in its main money market rate that triggered a series of similar falls among its trading partners. British stocks jumped to a record close after the Bundesbank cut 0.3 of a percentage point off its securities repurchase rate (repo) to an historic low of 3.0 percent. London's bluechip FTSE Index ended 19 points higher at 3,891.1 and bourses across Europe were buoyed as rate cuts emerged in swift succession. The Bank of France quickly followed the German lead by lowering its intervention rate to 3.5% from 3.55. Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria then acted to trim their rates too. Equity markets, which had traded cautiously through the morning as the German central bankers met, rose immediately after the Frankfurt news as investors cheered the cut as a positive move for stocks.

Blue chips rally

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks were swept higher yesterday by renewed strength in technology shares and surprisingly large cuts in European interest rates. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 43.28 points at 5,733.10, putting the index about 45 points from its record high of 5,778.00 set on May 22. In the broader market, advancing issues outnumbered declines by a 14-8 margin on moderately active volume of 356 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1560 +0.29%
Sterling ... NIS 4.8891 +0.30%
Mark ... NIS 2.1111 -0.49%

NY STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
DJ Industrial ... 5721.62 +0.18
DJ Transport ... 3072.75 +0.13
DJ Utility ... 217.58 +0.08
DJ Composite ... 1899.51 +0.17
NYSE Index ... 338.74 +0.45
NYSE Transp ... 208.71 +0.11
NYSE Comp ... 344.70 +0.31
S&P 500 Index ... 670.30 +0.32
AMEX Comp ... 303.30 +0.62

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE / AMEX
Amir ... 36 -0.75
Amir A ... 7.75 -0.12
Amir B ... 1.30 -0.05
Amir C ... 0.30 -0.02
Amir D ... 0.15 -0.01
Amir E ... 0.08 -0.00
Amir F ... 0.04 -0.00
Amir G ... 0.02 -0.00
Amir H ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir I ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir J ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir K ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir L ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir M ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir N ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir O ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir P ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir Q ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir R ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir S ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir T ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir U ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir V ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir W ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir X ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir Y ... 0.01 -0.00
Amir Z ... 0.01 -0.00

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change. Includes sub-sections for Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, and Property, Building & Agriculture.

Two-sided trading

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change. Includes sub-sections for Investment Companies, PARALLEL LIST, and Oil Exploration.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK
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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change. Includes sub-sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, and PARIS.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency cross-rates with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, and FF.

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INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates with columns for Country, Last, and Change.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates with columns for Term, Last, and Change.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
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Fax: 02-244876

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Table of US commodities with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

London commodities

Table of London commodities with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fixes with columns for Name, Last, and Change.

Handwritten text: 'מלוא מיליון'

















# Commander in friendly fire mishap suspended

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine suspended the commander of the force which opened fire on its own men, killing St.-Sgt. Valery Ganzman and wounding Avishai Shafir on Tuesday. Ganzman, who immigrated from Belarus five years ago and had just one week left to serve when he was killed, was buried yesterday in Upper Nazareth.

Levine said that until the tragic incident the commander of the Givati Brigade's anti-tank platoon had been level-headed and experienced. The commander, a second lieutenant, will remain suspended until a special investigative committee completes its inquiry.

In an initial inquiry held yesterday, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reviewed the incident with

the commander of the platoon and soldiers who were involved. Also attending the inquiry were Levine, OC Ground Corps Command Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka, the Galilee Division commander Brig.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai, who is responsible for the Givati Brigade, and

the Givati Brigade commander. The army said Shabak and Levine accepted the presentation made by the Galilee Division. That presentation reportedly blamed the platoon commander for not having full control over his troops.

The force had been returning from an all-night exercise when the commander suspected oases behind him were terrorists moving in on his squad. His soldiers

opened fire on the group of soldiers making up the rear section, which was led by Ganzman.

Ganzman was killed outright and Shafir suffered serious chest wounds. Shabak ordered the special investigation to be set up to put together a detailed sequence of events that led to the mishap and the lessons to be derived from the mistakes, the army said.

### WEATHER

Haifa	22-30
Tiberias	22-37
Afula	19-33
Samarita	17-29
Tel Aviv	24-30
Jerusalem	16-29
Beer Sheva	20-34
Dead Sea	25-35
Eilat	28-40

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.  
Shabbat: No change.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	C	F	C	F
Amsterdam	14	57	24	76	clear	clear
Berlin	16	59	24	75	clear	clear
Buenos Aires	18	63	22	72	clear	clear
Caracas	22	73	22	72	clear	clear
Chicago	18	61	22	72	clear	clear
Frankfurt	17	60	22	72	clear	clear
Geneva	17	60	22	72	clear	clear
Helsinki	11	52	22	72	clear	clear
Hong Kong	27	81	21	70	clear	clear
London	14	57	22	72	clear	clear
Los Angeles	18	63	22	72	clear	clear
Madrid	17	60	22	72	clear	clear
Moscow	12	54	22	72	clear	clear
Montreal	13	56	22	72	clear	clear
New York	18	63	22	72	clear	clear
Paris	14	57	22	72	clear	clear
Rome	16	59	22	72	clear	clear
Sydney	15	58	22	72	clear	clear

## Eitan blasts Yarmuk dam proposal

DAVID RUDGE

Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday sharply criticized a reported proposal by Jordan and Syria to jointly construct a dam on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk River.

Eitan said that if the report were correct and the plan went ahead, it would constitute a breach of regional water agreements, including those contained in the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Under the accord, Israel is supposed to give Jordan 30 million cubic meters of water a year from Lake Kinneret.

He warned that if only Syria and Jordan would benefit from the reported dam project, the government would have to reconsider water agreements with Jordan.

He said that if Israel were to get its share of the water from the dam project, he would have no objections to the plan. But he maintained that it is highly unlikely that Syria would agree

to share any of the water with Israel.

Eitan stressed, however, that it is not clear if the reports are correct and, if so, what had prompted Jordan and Syria to raise the dam proposal.

"I don't know if there is anything in what has been reported and published, and I don't know if they are going to actually carry out the work on this joint dam," Eitan told Israel Radio. "If it does go ahead, however, or this trend does appear to be correct, it would be contrary to all the water agreements since the Johnston Accord in the early 1950s."

Eitan noted that the water issue will be one of the key issues in peace talks with Syria, if or when they resume.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon issued a

statement saying that he "isn't familiar with the agreement between Syrian and Jordan and wouldn't relate to the facts and numbers published in the media."

He added: "I want to think that the Jordanians, like us, honor agreements and that they intend, as we do, to fulfill their water agreements with Israel."

The original report of the Yarmuk dam project was carried in a recent edition of a London-based Arabic newspaper. The paper quoted Jordanian sources as saying that Jordan had forwarded the proposal to Syria because of its disappointment with the implementation of the water agreements with Israel.

The report noted that Jordan and Syria had signed an accord a decade ago to jointly construct a dam and reservoir along the upper reaches of the Yarmuk, but it was never implemented due to lack of funds.



Fans reach out to take T-shirts from George Clooney (left) star of the American TV series 'ER' in Tel Aviv yesterday. Clooney was on a six-hour visit to Israel, taking a break from filming a movie in Spain and presented a gown and stethoscope to the Tel Aviv branch of the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain. (Reuters)

## DJ claims record for longest broadcast

A DISC jockey for Army Radio yesterday broke the world record for the longest continuous radio broadcast of a single program, the radio station said.

Staff-Sgt. Ily Ber concluded 30 hours of broadcasting at 3 p.m. in a mobile studio set up on the Tel Aviv beach.

The old record of 29 hours and 38 minutes was set by Ireland's national radio station, Ber said.

Ber played music, hosted guests, and talked during his program. Needing a shave and garbling his sentences, Ber said he was just trying to have a good time.

"It's fun for me," Ber said. "And of course, there's also the PR, why not?"

In his last minutes on the air, Ber played the Beatles' song "Hard Day's Night," and finished with a song by Arik Einstein. "It's So Good You've Come Home." (AP)

## Yarmuk dam would severely reduce flow into the Jordan

DAVID RUDGE

THE construction of a dam on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk River on the Jordan-Syria border would reduce the flow in the lower section to a bare trickle, according to Technion Prof. Dan Zaslavsky, a former water commissioner.

He noted that under the Johnston Accord of the early 1950s, which was accepted and upheld by Jordan and Israel even though they never signed it, the Yarmuk waters flow directly into the Jordan River, south of the Kinneret, and are shared by Jordan and Israel.

Some of the water is diverted from the lower reaches of the Yarmuk to help irrigate fields in Jordan and Israel. Some of the water is also pumped into the

Kinneret to help replenish the lake.

In return, said Zaslavsky, Israel is now transferring 30 million cubic meters of water a year from the Kinneret to Jordan to help ease the chronic water shortage there, as part of the peace accord between the two countries.

"Syria, in contravention of the earlier agreements, already has a network of dams along the tributaries of the Yarmuk on the Syrian side of the Golan. By 1991, Syria was drawing 200 million cu.m. of water from these tributaries, leaving less to

flow into the Yarmuk," said Zaslavsky.

"If another dam were to be constructed on the upper reaches of the Yarmuk, there would be virtually nothing flowing down into the Jordan in the summer and only in rare cases of floods in the winter.

"This would deprive farmers on both sides of this water source, and whatever might be left over would be highly saline.

"This would also have an adverse effect on the landscape and nature in the area. Therefore, I sincerely hope these reports are incorrect, or that Jordan will not go-ahead with such a joint project, especially with such an untrustworthy partner as Syria," Zaslavsky added.

### Japanese FM expected next week

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda is expected to arrive here Sunday, as part of his visit to the region, during which he will also visit the Palestinian autonomous areas, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria.

The improvement in bilateral relations following progress in the peace process is evidenced by Japanese plans to open a trade office here next year and by Japanese investment, including the funding of joint projects, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Jerusalem Post Staff

### National Fraud Squad to question Zucker about Camera Obscura

BILL HUTMAN

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) is to be summoned soon by the National Fraud Squad for questioning. He is suspected of financial wrongdoing in connection with his work for the Camera Obscura photography company and school, senior police sources said yesterday.

The National Fraud Squad recently looked into the allegations and found reasonable cause for opening a formal investigation, according to the sources. Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair also gave his approval for an investigation.

Zucker is suspected of violating the Knesset Members Immunity Law by representing the Tel Aviv-based company in its dealings with the Education Ministry. The ministry, with Zucker's help, allocated the school some NIS 600,000 for the 1995-1996 school year.

Zucker, who denies any wrongdoing, also allegedly received a salary of NIS 78,000 in 1995 from Camera Obscura, but declared less than half that amount to the Knesset chairman.

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